GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:980
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
INDO-NEPAL TREATY
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Nepal to control flood menace in Bihar and adjoining States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct high dams at Narainghat, Noaughar, Sheeshapani and Barah on Gandak, Bagmati, Kamlavalan and Kosi rivers;

(d) if so, whether an all party delegation led by Chief Minister of Bihar has submitted any memorandum to Hon'ble Prime Minister; and

(e) if so, the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) An inception repot for taking up joint investigations / studies and preparation of detailed project report in respect of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme has been agreed between India and Nepal. The project will interalia have flood control benefits for the State of Bihar.

Further as a non-structural measure to forewarn and manage flood disasters, a plan scheme namely, "Flood Forecasting and Warning System on rivers common to India and Nepal" has been in operation since 1989. This scheme was reviewed in May 2002 wherein it has been agreed to increase the number of meteorological / hydrometric sites in Nepalese territory from 42 to 47. In addition Nepal has also agreed to transmit real time data in respect of 5 key hydrometric stations located on Gandak, Kosi, Rapti, Bagmatiand Mahananda rivers which in turn has helped in making flood forecasts with increased warning times.

(c) Yes Sir, the proposal for construction of multipurpose storage dams on river Kamla near Chisapani and on river Bagmati near Noonthar in Nepali s also under discussion with Nepal. Efforts to workout an understanding in this regard are in progress though Nepal feels that these projects may not be feasible because of social and environmental implications. However, at present there is no proposal under discussion with Nepal regarding high dam at Narainghat on river Gandak.

(d) Yes Sir, an all party delegation led by Chief Minister of Bihar submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble Prime Minister on20.08.2002 inter-alia regarding Indo-Nepal agreement on flood control.

(e) As a follow up of the above meeting, the proposal with an estimated cost of Rs. 29.34 crore has been approved to set up the Joint Project Office (JPO) in Nepal to take up the joint investigations / studies and preparation of detailed project report in respect ofSapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme.